GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2740
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2015
Angkor Wat Replica
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cambodia has lodged a protest to India over plans to construct Angkor Wat replica in India;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
(c) the response of India in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Yes.

(b) The Cambodian Embassy in New Delhi handed over a letter to Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, expressing their concern over the proposed project on 4th June 2015. A similar concern was expressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia to the Indian Ambassador in Phnom Penh on 29th May 2015. According to the Cambodian Government, Angkor Wat Temple is a world heritage site and is a symbol of Cambodia in its national flag.

(c) The Government of India has taken up the matter of the construction of ''Viraat Ramayan Mandir'' with the Government of Bihar and the promoters of the temple. The Government of India has re-assured the Cambodian authorities that, while the temple design of the temple is inspired by the Angkor Wat temple, it is not an exact replica of that temple. According to the promoters, the 'Viraat Ramayan Mandir' complex prominently features design elements of Indian temple architecture. After the intervention of the Government of India the promoters of the temple have made suitable and substantial alterations in the design of the proposed temple complex.
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